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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

March 20, 2008

Department of Corrections Assists with Disaster Response in Piedmont ... Gov. Blunt's Administration Providing Water, Bulldozer for Piedmont

Jefferson City- Gov. Blunt and the Department of Corrections are providing requested resources for the people of Piedmont who are among the hardest hit by the flooding this week. Residents and emergency personnel in Piedmont have received bottled water that was transported by the Missouri Department of Corrections and a requested bulldozer is on the way.

"Missourians can be assured that we are doing everything in our power to assist those who are impacted by this devastating flood," Gov. Blunt said. "We are providing critical resources to Piedmont and other communities that have requested assistance. I appreciate the Department of Corrections and our state agencies that are doing so much to assist Missourians in need."

Two tractor trailers full of bottled water left Jefferson City this morning, and arrived in Piedmont at 12:30 p.m. The water was provided by the state's Office of Administration, Division of Surplus Properties.

In addition to receiving the bottled water, Piedmont officials this afternoon requested a bulldozer from the Department of Corrections to divert a creek back to its original channel in order to repair piping for their water system. Department officials this afternoon approved that request, and the bulldozer will be transported to Piedmont.

The Department of Corrections remains on standby if other resources are needed to be transported. Gov. Blunt signed an executive order earlier this week, which allows state agency resources to assist local jurisdictions with their emergency response. The executive order activated the State Emergency Operations Center in Jefferson City. The Department of Corrections is one of many state agencies activated for duty.

"The Department is pleased that we are able to assist local jurisdictions in these times of need," Department Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Michelle Kasak said.

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